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1 November 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Daniel O. Graham  
Major General, USA  
D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : NIE 11-8 and the BACKFIRE Bomber

1. At first glance, I see value in your suggestion that particular and important military problems receive special treatment in an estimate devoted to them rather than being held in abeyance for one of the major annual mission-oriented estimates. This is a matter to which we should give much consideration, with the National Intelligence Officers for Strategic Weapons and General Purpose Forces (who are yet to be named) playing a major role.

2. With respect to the BACKFIRE, I am informed that last year's 11-8 gave extensive treatment to the controversy and that little additional evidence has been acquired in the ensuing year. In those circumstances, and given the fact that this year's 11-8 is now well advanced, I think we can let the matter proceed along its present course in this instance.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

Distribution:

Original and 1 - addressee  
1 - Mr. Carver

1 - [redacted]

NIO/USSR & EE: [redacted] :mw:1 Nov 73

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